

CIRCUIT COURTS

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Source of Funds	FY07 Adjusted Base	FY08 Recommended	% Change Over FY07	FY09 Recommended	% Change Over FY08
GPR	83,578,700	88,793,000	6.2	88,857,500	0.1
SEG-O	0	9,103,000	0.0	10,012,500	10.0
TOTAL	83,578,700	97,896,000	17.1	98,870,000	1.0

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION SUMMARY

Source of Funds	FY07 Adjusted Base	FY08 Recommended	FTE Change From FY07	FY09 Recommended	FTE Change From FY08
GPR	511.00	511.00	0.00	511.00	0.00
TOTAL	511.00	511.00	0.00	511.00	0.00

AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The Circuit Courts are Wisconsin's courts of general jurisdiction and consist of 241 judicial positions in 69 judicial circuits. Each county in the state is a circuit, with the exception of Pepin and Buffalo, Menominee and Shawano, and Forest and Florence, which are paired to form three circuits. Where the volume of litigation warrants, a circuit consists of more than one branch (judge). Of the 69 circuits, 39 contain multiple branches.

The Circuit Courts have original jurisdiction in all criminal, civil, juvenile, family and probate cases unless exclusive jurisdiction has been given to another court. The courts have appellate jurisdiction over orders and judgments of the municipal courts and the responsibility to review decisions and orders of state administrative agencies.

For purposes of management, the Circuit Courts are divided into ten administrative districts. Each district has a chief judge appointed by the Supreme Court and a district court administrator who administers the business of the judicial branch in that district in cooperation with the director of state courts at the direction of the chief justice. The first judicial district (Milwaukee County) also has an assistant district court administrator.

CIRCUIT COURTS

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Circuit Courts Funding Package
2. Court Interpreters – County Reimbursement
3. Standard Budget Adjustments

ITEMS NOT APPROVED

4. Financial Assistance Programs

Table 1
Department Budget Summary by Funding Source (in thousands of dollars)

	ACTUAL FY06	ADJUSTED BASE FY07	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
			FY08	FY09	FY08	FY09
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	\$81,633.3	\$83,578.7	\$65,314.9	\$65,379.4	\$88,793.0	\$88,857.5
State Operations	57,358.5	59,273.5	64,254.3	64,254.3	64,254.3	64,254.3
Local Assistance	24,274.8	24,305.2	1,060.6	1,125.1	24,538.7	24,603.2
PROGRAM REVENUE (2)			36,000.0	36,000.0		
Local Assistance			36,000.0	36,000.0		
SEGREGATED REVENUE (3)					9,103.0	10,012.5
Local Assistance					9,103.0	10,012.5
TOTALS-ANNUAL	81,633.3	83,578.7	101,314.9	101,379.4	97,896.0	98,870.0
State Operations	57,358.5	59,273.5	64,254.3	64,254.3	64,254.3	64,254.3
Local Assistance	24,274.8	24,305.2	37,060.6	37,125.1	33,641.7	34,615.7

(2) Includes Program Revenue-Service and Program Revenue-Other

(3) Includes Segregated Revenue-Service, Segregated Revenue-Other and Segregated Revenue-Local

Table 2
Department Position Summary by Funding Source (in FTE positions) (4)

	ADJUSTED BASE FY07	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
		FY08	FY09	FY08	FY09
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	511.00	511.00	511.00	511.00	511.00
TOTALS-ANNUAL	511.00	511.00	511.00	511.00	511.00

(4) All positions are State Operations unless otherwise specified

Table 3
Department Budget Summary by Program (in thousands of dollars)

	ACTUAL FY06	ADJUSTED BASE FY07	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
			FY08	FY09	FY08	FY09
1. Court operations	\$81,633.3	\$83,578.7	\$101,314.9	\$101,379.4	\$97,896.0	\$98,870.0
TOTALS	81,633.3	83,578.7	101,314.9	101,379.4	97,896.0	98,870.0

Table 4
Department Position Summary by Program (in FTE positions) (4)

	ADJUSTED BASE FY07	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
		FY08	FY09	FY08	FY09
1. Court operations	511.00	511.00	511.00	511.00	511.00
TOTALS	511.00	511.00	511.00	511.00	511.00

(4) All positions are State Operations unless otherwise specified

1. Circuit Courts Funding Package

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendation			
	FY08		FY09		FY08		FY09	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
SEG-O	0	0.00	0	0.00	9,103,000	0.00	10,012,500	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	9,103,000	0.00	10,012,500	0.00

The Governor recommends providing funding from the county aid fund to offset a greater portion of county Circuit Court costs (see Shared Revenue and Tax Relief, Item #3). The increased funding is a reaffirmation of the state's commitment to the important partnership with the counties for the management of the Circuit Courts system.

2. Court Interpreters – County Reimbursement

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendation			
	FY08		FY09		FY08		FY09	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	233,500	0.00	298,000	0.00	233,500	0.00	298,000	0.00
TOTAL	233,500	0.00	298,000	0.00	233,500	0.00	298,000	0.00

The Governor recommends increasing funding for reimbursement of court interpreter costs incurred by the counties for interpreter services needed in criminal, juvenile, mental health and civil cases, regardless of indigence. The Governor further recommends requiring the court to provide, in all criminal and civil proceedings, an interpreter for a party or a witness who has limited English proficiency, regardless of indigence.

3. Standard Budget Adjustments

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendation			
	FY08		FY09		FY08		FY09	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	4,980,800	0.00	4,980,800	0.00	4,980,800	0.00	4,980,800	0.00
TOTAL	4,980,800	0.00	4,980,800	0.00	4,980,800	0.00	4,980,800	0.00

The Governor recommends adjusting the agency's base budget for: (a) full funding of continuing position salaries and fringe benefits (\$4,980,800 in each year).

ITEMS NOT APPROVED

The following request is not included in the Governor's budget recommendations for the Circuit Courts.

Decision Item	Source of Funds	FY08		FY09	
		Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
4. Financial Assistance Programs	GPR	-23,478,100	0.00	-23,478,100	0.00
	PR-O	36,000,000	0.00	36,000,000	0.00
TOTAL OF ITEMS NOT APPROVED	GPR	-23,478,100	0.00	-23,478,100	0.00
	PR-O	36,000,000	0.00	36,000,000	0.00